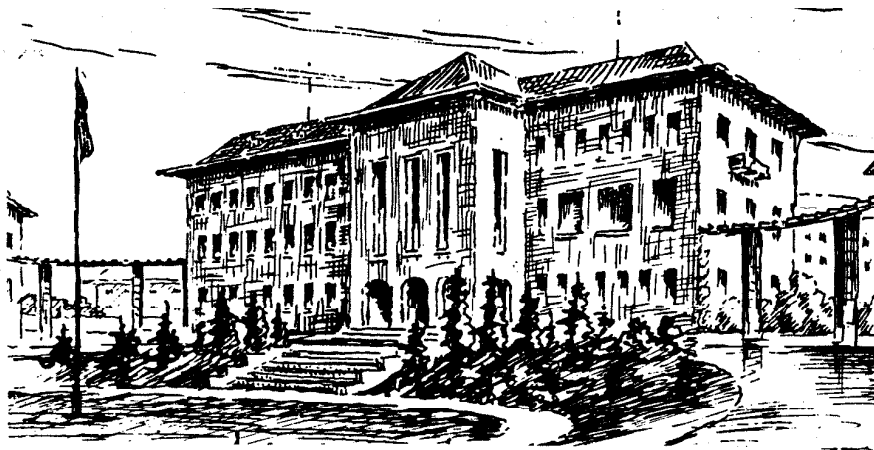


OUR ARMY HOSPITALS

388th STATION HOSPITAL

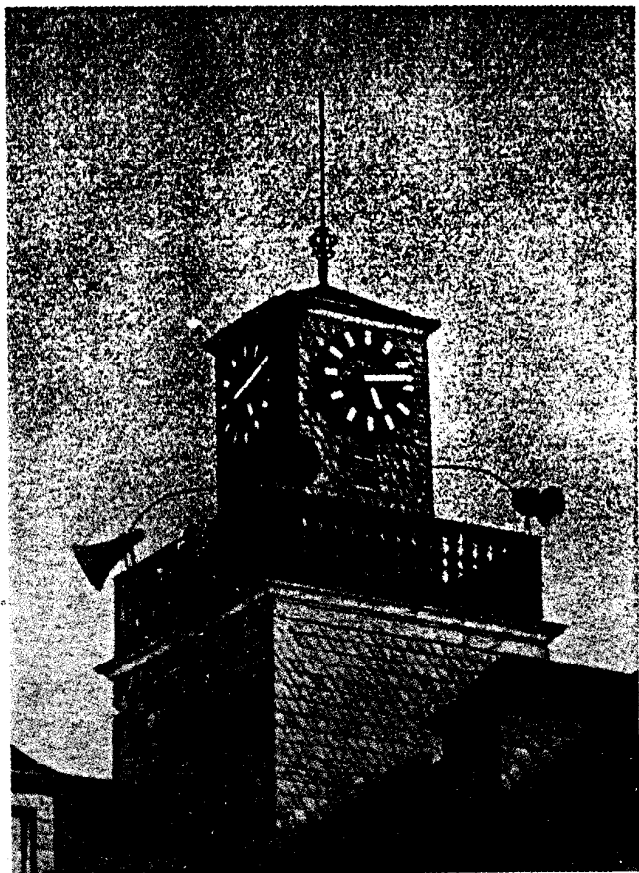


On April Fool's Day in 1946, the 388th Station Hospital occupied a German standort hospital in Giessen. Close by, in a secluded family plot, one of the really great men of medicine was buried, Wilhelm Konrad Roentgen, discoverer of x-rays. But no one from the 388th had time to visit the cemetery. The unit had been reorganized two weeks before at Karlsruhe, Germany, from the 113th Evacuation Hospital. It had to take over immediately the operation of the standort hospital from the 20th Hospital Team, which had operated it as a German prisoner of war hospital since the capture of the city of Giessen by US Forces. Previously, until March, 1945, the hospital was used by the German army.

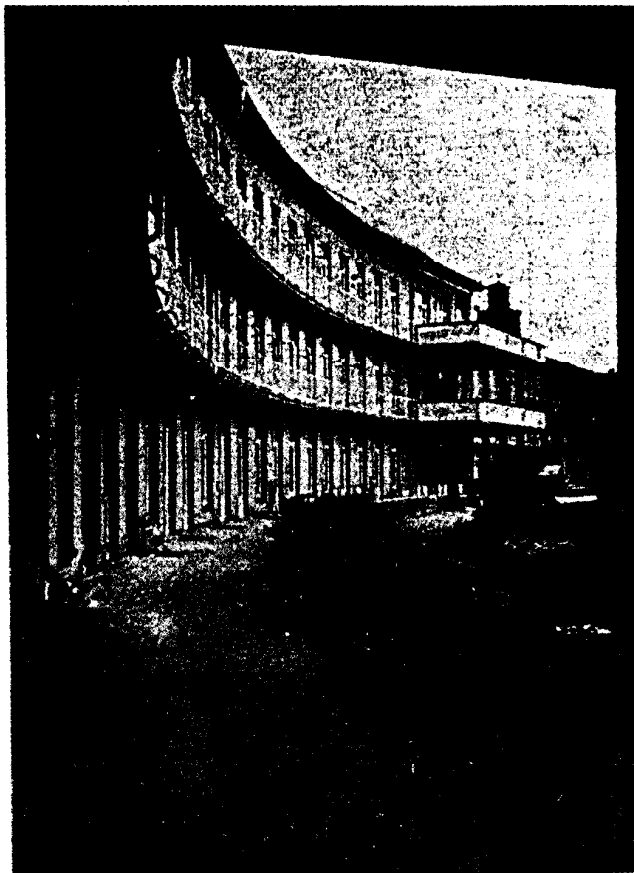
The hospital had been damaged during the war. Material was short, so repairs were difficult. The hospital needed new sidewalks, streets, fences, outside lighting, repainting, replastering. A new mess hall was built as well as two new barracks for enlisted personnel.

Today, the hospital, constructed mainly between 1936 and 1939, includes eleven buildings occupying about 6,300 square meters with grounds occupying another 6,500 square meters. The patients' wards and private rooms are so arranged in a curve that they receive a maximum of sunlight. Each room has a balcony which overlooks the many acres of terraced grounds, landscaped with flower beds and shrubbery. Directly behind the hospital is a large garden which supplies the hospital messes with fresh vegetables and fruit.

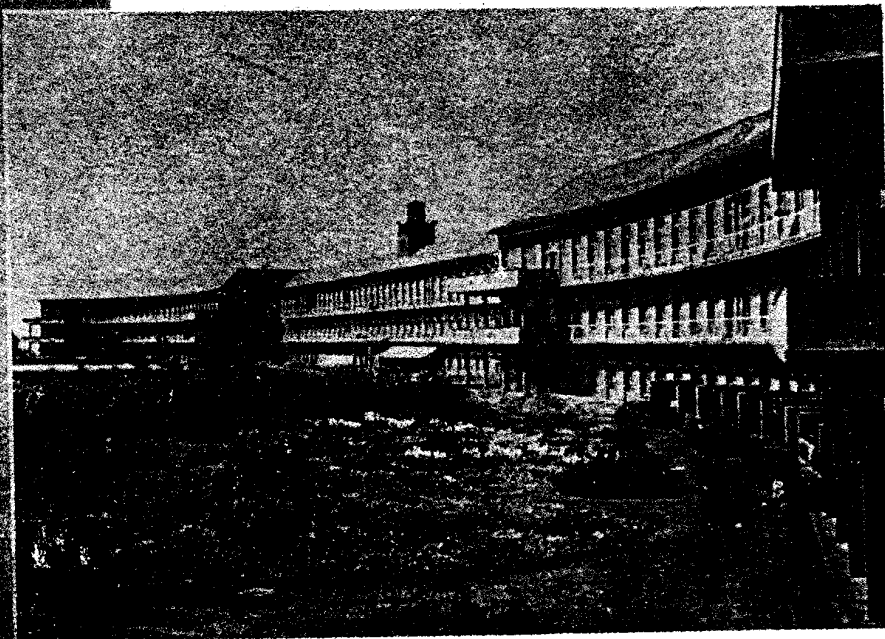
The hospital provides medical service for about 11,750 civilian and military personnel. With a gradual increase in the number of dependents in the Marburg, Wetzlar, Giessen area, a dependents' ward and various clinics covering all fields of outpatient services were established as well as a community dispensary especially designed for dependents. A complete schedule of clinics--orthopedic, dental, female (obstetrics and gynecology), pediatrics, surgery, medicine, and eyes, ears, nose and throat--was distributed to families in the Wetzlar Military Post. A fully-equipped physio-therapy department is maintained with an experienced physio-therapist in charge. In addition to furnish-



The Clock Tower



*The Grand Circle-
Patients' Balconies
and Flower Gardens*



*The
Foyer
Fountain*

ing supplies and equipment for the hospital, the medical supply section has been designated as a parent station for providing supplies and equipment to all outlying dispensaries scattered throughout the area.

Personnel of the hospital have turned to hobbies and the great outdoors for entertainment, since a large percentage of the city of Giessen was destroyed. Before the war, Giessen was primarily a university and garrison town. The University of Giessen was one of the six largest universities in Germany and contained schools of science and medicine. The university was closed recently, but many of the civilian hospitals are still open. The civilian eye clinic had a world-wide reputation.

The most popular hobby at the hospital seems to be photography. A darkroom is at the disposal of all personnel. The hospital Red Cross offers a large craft shop, pingpong room, and lounge. The theater, used as a Chapel on Sundays, will accommodate 100 people. One of the chief sources of relaxation are well-planned hunting trips for red deer and wild boar. There is an excellent library, offering all types of literatures. A large selection of medical books and periodicals is maintained for the use of the hospital staff.

In the hospital area, there is an officers' club and an enlisted men's club, both complete with bar, dance floor and an excellent orchestra. A part of a barracks was remodeled recently into a small gymnasium, a reading room, and a game room. The game room now has pingpong tables and will soon have a pool table.

The hospital was commanded by Colonel Seth Gayle, Jr., MC, until May, 1947. Col Gayle is now chief surgeon of the 1st Infantry Division. The present hospital commander is Col Paul E. Keller,* MC. The hospital functioned as a 250 bed hospital until June 30, 1948, at which time it was redesignated as a 150 bed hospital with an authorized strength of eleven officers, twelve nurses and 72 enlisted men. Despite this reduction the strength is thought to be adequate to care for the needs of the military area served.

During the past six months, there has been a considerable change over in officers and enlisted men due to rotation and redeployment. Replacements are arriving, however, and it is expected that the efficiency of the various wards and departments will not be lowered. Some of the new men are going to visit the Roentgen museum in near-by Wurzburg when they have time.--R.W.R.

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*Lt Col. Frank D. McCreary replaced Col. Keller who returned to the ZI.